

Children and family talk for Sunday 5th June 2022

Good morning!

And if you don't know already – it's the special platinum jubilee weekend for Her Majesty the Queen. Today we are going to look at a passage from the bible which was chosen for the Queen's platinum jubilee;

Reading from the Prophets Micah 6.6-8

Our reading from the Old Testament is from the Prophet Micah who writes:

⁶You say, "What can I bring with me
when I come before the Lord?

What can I bring

when I bow before God on high?

Should I come before the Lord with burnt offerings,
with year-old calves?

⁷Will the Lord be pleased with 1,000 male sheep?

Will he be pleased with 10,000 rivers of oil?

Should I give my first child for the evil I have done?

Should I give my very own child for my sin?"

⁸The Lord has told you what is good.

He has told you what he wants from you:

Do what is right to other people.

Love being kind to others.

And live humbly, trusting your God.

Children's Message from the URC service.

To love mercy – the sword with the broken tip

Script:

I have something in my bag. [Take out a recent photo of Queen Elizabeth] Who is this? [Queen Elizabeth]. Today we are thinking about Queen Elizabeth. Who can tell me how many years she has been the Queen? [70]. That's a long time, 70 years. What year was it 70 years ago when she became queen? [1952]. [Take out a photo of the young Elizabeth at her Coronation.] Who do you think this is? This is Queen Elizabeth on the day in 1952 when she became Queen. There was a special service, a coronation, held that day. At that service there were several symbols given to the new queen. Each symbol is to help her remember something important. [Remove from bag: a picture of a sword with a broken tip.] What's this? [a sword]. One of the symbols given to the new Queen is a sword. But it's not like most swords. Can you see something different about

this sword? Look at the tip? Is it sharp and pointed? No. This sword, given to the new queen, actually has a broken tip. It was broken on purpose, to remind her of something. Why do you think the tip is broken? A broken sword might remind the Queen of...what? [Let the children share their ideas.] This sword with its broken tip symbolises mercy. In fact, it has a special name: Curtana, The Sword of Mercy. The broken tip reminds the Queen that she must not be cruel, but be merciful. She must find ways to bring peace not hardship in her judgements. Just like the prophet Micah said, as we heard read, 'What does God require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'

Pray with me.

God of forgiveness, thank you for reminding the Queen and us that we should not be cruel or hurtful, but rather be merciful, acting with justice and kindness. Amen.

Let's finish by saying the grace together:

And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out your hands as if receiving a present)

The Love of God (Cross your hands over your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (hold hands together)

Be with us all, now and for evermore, Amen. (Bring thumbs together).

Here is a link for a special jubilee song by Sue Bleazard with the Song kids. Perhaps you could make up your platinum Jubilee song? https://youtu.be/eEMEQ_d_eh4